

Application No. 09/937,599
Art Unit 1713
Tuesday, July 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action Dated March 3, 2004

ABSTRACT

A kneading status evaluation method for a rubber composition containing at least a rubber and a filler having the steps of a complex modulus measurement step (1) in which a complex modulus $E^*(a)$ at a given strain ϵ_a and a complex modulus $E^*(b)$ at a given strain ϵ_b differing from the strain ϵ_a of the rubber composition (I) are measured, a filler dispersion index calculation step (2) in which a filler dispersion index (N) of the rubber composition (I) is calculated with complex elastic moduli $E^*(a)$ and $E^*(b)$ obtained in the previous step (1), and a comparison step (3) to compare a predetermined target filler dispersion index (R) with the filler dispersion index (N) calculated in the previous step (2), and/or a complex viscosity coefficient measurement step (5) to measure a complex viscosity coefficient η^* of the rubber composition (I) under at least two different temperatures, and a kneading status monitor index calculation step (6) to calculate a kneading status monitor index (M) of the rubber composition (I) on the basis of a temperature dependency of the complex viscosity coefficient η^* obtained at the previous step (5), and a comparison step (7) to compare a predetermined target kneading status monitor index (P) with the kneading status monitor index (M) calculated in the previous step (6). The filler dispersion index (N) = $|E^*(a)|/|E^*(b)|$; $|\eta^*(T)| = A \exp(M/RT)$, where η^* : complex viscosity coefficient, A: proportional constant, R: gas constant, and T: measuring temperature ($^{\circ}\text{K}$).